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**PREVENTION OF LEAD CONTAMINATION IN ITEMS DISTRIBUTED BY THE
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

Update to Partners and Request for Action

October 24, 2007

This letter updates partners on actions taken in response to the findings of elevated levels of lead in soft-sided, insulated lunchboxes distributed as promotional items by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and its predecessor, the California Department of Health Services (CDHS), and to request partners to take specific follow-up actions.

BACKGROUND

On September 20, 2007, CDPH issued a press release that asked the public to stop using CDPH lunchboxes that had been distributed free of charge between 2004 and 2007. The public was asked to return the lunchboxes to the place where they had received them or to a local household hazardous waste facility. Media across California and the nation carried the story. The CDPH press release and links to websites for information about childhood lead poisoning are posted at www.cdph.ca.gov.

CDPH has been working closely with state and local hazardous waste and environmental health authorities to arrange for the legal, efficient collection and disposal of CDPH lunchboxes.

MORATORIUM ON PROMOTIONAL ITEMS

Due to the growing variety of lead-related product recalls and acting in an abundance of caution, CDPH on September 21, 2007, asked its state-level programs to immediately stop distributing and purchasing promotional items of any type. A comprehensive risk assessment began to determine the level of risk for each item inventoried and categorize those with the highest level of risk. After initial review of the potential risk, CDPH distributed an interim guideline on October 12, 2007, to provide additional guidance specific to materials used by many public health programs. More information will be forthcoming on this issue. Please visit www.cdph.ca.gov where updated information and resources will be posted.

ACTIONS REQUESTED OF PROGRAM PARTNERS

- Please continue to adhere to the moratorium on the distribution and purchase of promotional items that are paid for through any CDPH contract until further notice. CDPH will continue to keep partners updated.
- Continue to accept any green or blue CDPH lunchboxes that are returned by the public and continue holding inventory of new lunchboxes.
- CPNS partners who distributed the CDPH green or blue lunchboxes are requested to continue holding new and returned lunchboxes and to maintain an updated list with the

number of cartons of lunchboxes that are being held at each pick-up location. Instructions for transfer will be provided as soon as the collection and disposal plans are finalized. If you have not provided information on the quantity of lunch box's and their location to either KP Corporation or in response to the requests from your Environmental Health partner, please contact Jessica McCallister at jessica.mccallister@cdph.ca.gov or (916) 449-5457 to provide her with the information.

NEXT STEPS

Should you have questions, please post them to the following e-mail address: promoitems@cahan.ca.gov or fax to (916) 341-3986, Attention: Promotional Items Management Team. This site and fax number will serve as the central repository for administrative questions on this matter.

The Department will continue its comprehensive risk assessment of promotional items and expects to set priorities, select items for testing, and identify preventive measures and specifications for selecting promotional items in the near future.

Current information on the web includes a frequently asked questions document, interim guidelines on the use of promotional items, guidance from the Department of Toxic Substances Control, the 09/20/07 press release, and a link to information about lead. New information for the public and partners will be posted on the CDPH website, www.cdph.ca.gov as it becomes available.

Thank you for your continued understanding and collaboration.